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United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CARRYING A FIREARM DURING A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **De'Marcus Jermaine White, 25, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on February 23, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson to one count of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.**

Melgren stated that White admitted at his plea that on May 9, 2003, he was stopped by Topeka Police Department officers for a traffic violation after officers observed White fail to stop at a stop sign in Topeka. Officers searched White and found a pistol and plastic baggies containing marijuana and crack cocaine in his pants. The officers searched the vehicle and found additional marijuana and a set of scales. White admitted that he possessed with the intent to distribute approximately 26.26 grams (approximately .93 ounce) of marijuana and approximately 4.44 grams (approximately .16 ounce) of crack cocaine. White further admitted that he possessed the pistol in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

White faces a minimum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for May 24, 2004, at 9:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.